

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29th January 2026

COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL

For the period from 27th November 2025 to 29th January 2026

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Cold Weather issues:

You will all be aware the effect the snow and ice had on bin collections earlier this month. In these cases, safety has to be absolutely paramount. A decision was made very early each morning as to how safe it was to deploy crews.

I would like to thank our waste and recycling manager and the whole Serco team for everything they did to keep collections running as smoothly as possible. While some collections were delayed by a couple of days, there was a concerted effort to catch up including with supervisors taking out spare lorries.

We are aware of an incident elsewhere in Norfolk where a stationary bin lorry began slipping backwards towards the loaders operating behind the vehicle. This should highlight the level of danger to our crews when they go out in icy conditions.

We take the safety of our crews and of the public very seriously. 27 tonnes of loaded bin lorry sliding around on icy roads is not something we can risk. While we have spare lorries and equipment, we don't have spare staff to run them. Even minor slips and falls can cause lost work days and affect our ability to deliver the service.

We still have several weeks of winter to go and we don't know what that will bring. At time of writing, there is a chance of further icy weather again from next week, councillors will be updated if issues are likely.

Environmental Health Apprenticeships:

Over the past four years, the team has supported two Environmental Health apprentices to complete their Environmental Health degrees, both of whom have passed and achieved excellent results.

The degree programme requires students to study and undertake assignments across all key areas of environmental health, including housing, environmental protection, public health, food safety, and health and safety.

This approach has enabled our apprentices to learn alongside their day-to-day work while bringing new knowledge and best practice back into the workplace, helping to inform and shape our procedures. This has been a valuable opportunity to strengthen the team's skills and knowledge in an area where recruitment can be particularly challenging.

I hope you'll all join me in congratulating them on passing their apprenticeships and I'm thrilled to say that they both will be staying with the Borough team. We are also supporting them while they complete their professional elements for the Chartered Institute.

Food Waste Caddies:

We will not be undertaking any promotional events for Food Waste Action Week this year, due to a national shortage of food waste caddies.

The waste team would usually be out promoting food waste collections and handing out caddies during the week, however due to the nationwide introduction of food waste collections and therefore increased demand nationally, we aren't expecting to take delivery of any new caddies until May.

We have a few hundred that are allocated to new build properties and are keeping a list of residents who have requested new food caddies. These orders will be fulfilled when we take delivery of the new caddies.

We will undertake more promotions after the May delivery, but in the mean time: those that have caddies – please use them. It frees up space in your black bin and is more environmentally friendly. Remember – you can use any bag!

Heacham Toilets:

Due to an increase in the number of visitors to Heacham beaches this winter, we have opened up the public toilets a little earlier this year to cater better for winter beach goers and to improve the visitor experience.

Upgrades and repairs to other resort toilet facilities in Hunstanton will soon commence ready for the summer season.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**Hunstanton Prom:**

Further surveys will shortly be undertaken on the prom to give us a full idea of the condition of the prom, which will influence the forthcoming design.

The project team have regular meetings and monitor beach levels, particularly after any storm event.

Information will be shared with councillors when available and I hope to be able to update you on potential designs soon.

Waste bins on the Prom:

We are aware that some of the bins on the prom are tired, look a little past their best and have needed replacement for some time. We have looked at new designs and sizes for some of the bins and these will be installed ready for the summer season. The new bins are very different and I'm looking forward to being able to unveil them. I never thought I'd be excited about new bins, but there we go!

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Various portfolio briefings

Visit to Hunstanton public facilities

Norfolk Coast Protected Landscape CMG meeting

Joint Waste Contract Review and Development Board

Cabinet sifting

Cabinet briefing

Depot visits

Environment & Community Panel

LGA Coastal SIG Quarterly meeting

Cabinet
RFCC Meeting
RFCC Coastal Members meeting
Norfolk Waste Partnership
LGA Coastal SIG Water Quality update meeting